

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12 PA-01 /063 R

DRAFTED BY EA/JEMFEATHERSTONE:BCL
APPROVED BY P - MR. NEWSOM
P:JFORBES
EA/J:NPLATT
EA:RSULLIVAN
PRCM:HTHAYER

-----036161 240448Z /14

P 240138Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161512

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, MARR, JA

SUBJECT:SASAKI-NEWSOM MEETING 6/22/78

1. SUMMARY: DSP CHAIRMAN SASAKI HELD FRIENDLY MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21. SASAKI INQUIRED ABOUT US NORMALIZATION POLICY, FATE OF TAIWAN AND EFFECTS OF NORMALIZATION ON SALT TALKS. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM, EMPHASIZING US INTENTIONS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, NOTED THAT US COULD NOT FINISH PROCESS UNTIL MANY IN US ARE REASSURED ABOUT SECURITY AND ECONOMIC HEALTH OF TAIWAN. HE OFFERED VIEW THAT NORMALIZATION PROCESS WOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH NEGOTIATION OF SALT II AGREEMENT WHICH BOTH US AND USSR DESIRED.
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END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER INTRODUCING DSP COLLEAGUES, SASAKI COMPARED DSP OUTLOOK AND POLICIES TO ITS FRG NAMESAKE. HE NOTED THAT WHILE DSP WAS IN OPPOSITION, IT FULLY SUPPORTED POLICIES OF RULING CONSERVATIVE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY ON DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY. HE ADDED THAT DSP REGARDED US-JAPAN

MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY (MST) AS "CENTRAL TO ASIAN STABILITY."
UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM WARMLY WELCOMED SASAKI AND HIS
COLLEAGUES AND NOTED WITH APPROVAL INCREASING NUMBER OF
JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARIANS VISITING WASHINGTON.

3. SASAKI STATED THAT JAPAN IS NOW CONSIDERING SIGNING A
PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA. HE NOTED THAT JAPAN HAS YET TO SIGN ANY SORT OF
A PEACE TREATY WITH THE USSR, WHICH STRENUOUSLY OPPOSES
THE SINO-JAPANESE PFT. SASAKI EXPLAINED THAT THE UNRE-
SOLVED ISSUE OF THE SOVIET-HELD JAPANESE NORTHERN
TERRITORIES HAD STALLED PROGRESS ON ANY SUCH PACT WITH THE
SOVIETS. THE QUESTION OF SOVIET REACTON TO A PFT WAS NOW
OF GREAT CONCERN TO JAPAN, HE ADDED. SASAKI SAID THAT THE
DSP STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE GOJ'S INCLINATION TO PROCEED WITH
THE PFT.

4. SASAKI STATED THAT US-PRC NORMALIZATION WAS A TOPIC OF
GREAT INTEREST IN JAPAN. HE ASKED THE UNDER SECRETARY
ABOUT US PLANS FOR PROCEEDING AND ABOUT PLANS TO DEAL WITH
THE TAIWAN ISSUE.

5. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM RESPONDED THAT NORMALIZATION OF
RELATIONS AS ENVISAGED IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE WAS THE
OBJECTIVE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION JUST AS IT HAD BEEN WITH
THE PREVIOUS ONE. UNDER SECRETARY STRESSED THAT WE CANNOT
FINISH PROCESS UNTIL THE ADMINISTRATION, CONGRESS AND THE
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PUBLIC ARE SATISFIED THAT THE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC HEALTH
TAIWAN WILL CONTINUE. HE SAID A PRINCIPAL CONCERN THEREFORE
IS PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE TAIWAN PROBLEM. HE ADDED THAT
WE HAVE NO TIMETABLE BUT DO HAVE AN ACTIVE INTENTION OF
MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF NORMALIZATION. NEWSOM NOTED THAT
IN MEANTIME WE ARE MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH THE PRC THROUGH
LIAISON OFFICES AND THROUGH OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL VISITS.

6. SASAKI ASKED WHETHER THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS WOULD
AFFECT EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A SALT II TREATY. THE UNDER
SECRETARY NOTED THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF ISSUES WHICH
SOME SAW AS IMPACTING ON THE SALT II NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER,
HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE TWO PROCESSES WOULD GO ON
INDEPENDENTLY AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DIRECT ADVERSE
EFFECT BECAUSE BOTH THE US AND THE USSR SAW DISTINCT ADVAN-
TAGES IN LIMITING SUCH WEAPONS. HE ADDED THAT THERE COULD
BE PROBLEMS WITH TIMING WHEN THE ISSUES WERE BROUGHT BEFORE
CONGRESS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED. THE MAJOR PROBLEM IN
ACHIEVING A SALT II TREATY, HE CONCLUDED, WAS HOW AMERICANS,
PARTICULARLY THE CONGRESS, PERCEIVED SOVIET INTENTIONS
GENERALLY.

7. SASAKI EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RECEIVING HIM. IN RESPONSE TO A US SUGGESTION, HE AGREED TO LIMIT PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE MEETING TO A GENERAL LISTING OF THE TOPICS COVERED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE161512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BCL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780263-0453
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780623/aaaaatqd.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 98351782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2218180
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SASAKI-NEWSOM MEETING 6/22/78
TAGS: PINT, MARR, JA
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/98351782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014